

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Bangalore.

- (iv) Circulation of draft legislation on Haj Committee to Kerala State Haj Committee before finalisation - The legislative proposals to be enacted in the Bill are under consideration and the new Bill would be introduced after all aspects have been examined.
- (c) The total number of Haj pilgrims from Kerala who performed Haj under the auspices of the Central Haj Committee during 1996 was 4588.

Contracts to Indian Companies in African Countries

3451. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Indian companies were awarded African Development Bank/World Bank multilaterally funded international contracts in African countries located in south of Sahara region during the financial year 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the details of all such contracts awarded in each such African country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

OBC Recruitment of Group 'D' Staff

3452. SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether candidates, sponsored by the Employment Exchange for Group D post (Peon) in the reserved category of OBC in the Ministry of External Affairs, have been awaiting in queue for their interviews/selections since long;

(b) whether it is also a fact that according to the latest Government policy, all such reserved vacancies must be filled up within the stipulated time; and

(c) if so, upto which specific date all selection formalities will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The selection formalities have already been completed within the stipulated time. The offers of appointments to selected candidates are under issue.

Agreements Signed with Other Countries

3453. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the salient features of the agreements/accords signed with

various countries during the last six months, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

China

1. Agreement on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field along the Line of Actual Control signed on 29 November, 1996 in New Delhi includes several important confidence building measures and is built upon the Agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the line of Actual Control which was signed on 7 September, 1993.

2. The agreement concerning the maintenance of the Consulate General of India in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China signed on 29 November, 1996 in New Delhi provides the legal framework for the maintenance of our Consulate General in Hong Kong after the transfer of sovereignty to People's Republic of China on 30 June, 1997.

3. The Agreement on Cooperation for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Other Crimes signed on 29 November, 1996 provides for exchange of information and mutual cooperation in combating drug trafficking and other crimes.

4. The Agreement on Maritime Transport signed on 29 November, 1996 in New Delhi provides a framework for the development of maritime traffic between India and China.

Mongolia

1. The Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation signed in Ulaan Baatar on 16 September, 1996 provides the framework for expanding trade and economic cooperation between India and Mongolia.

2. The Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture signed on 16 September, 1996 provides the framework for bilateral cooperation in agriculture.

3. The Agreement in the field of Geology and Mineral Resources signed in Ulaan Baatar on 16 September, 1996 provides a framework for bilateral cooperation in geology and mineral resources.

Oman

1. The Memorandum of Understanding on Joint Commission for Combating Crime signed in Oman on 5 October, 1996 provides for mutual assistance in combating crime through exchange of information/data and assistance in investigation in the areas of trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, international organised crimes including terrorism, illegal